

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 786
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jerry C. Colley for
meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jerry C. Colley is one such noteworthy individual who through his extraordinary efforts has distinguished himself as a community leader and volunteer of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Colley was born in Centerville on July 31, 1927, to Mable Carothers and John Colley; at the age of twelve he lost both of his parents to tuberculosis; along with his younger siblings, John, Elizabeth and Sam, he was then reared by his grandmother Carothers, whom they affectionately referred to as "Grandmammy"; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Colley was raised during the days of the Great Depression in the strict discipline of the Methodist church, with an emphasis on the value of hard work; he held down three jobs while attending Hickman County High School, played center on the basketball team, excelled on the debating team, and was salutatorian of the Class of 1945; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Mr. Colley served with distinction in World War II as a member of the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, after serving his time in the military, Jerry Colley graduated from Peabody College, earned a juris doctorate degree in 1951 from Vanderbilt University Law School, and moved to Columbia. For the next twenty-five years he worked with prominent banker and lawyer Lon P. McFarland, and then with attorneys Ed Blank and Billy Jack; he now practices law with his son, John S. Colley, III, and Mark Free, and Benjamin W. Wrather; and

WHEREAS, his pleasant personality, distinguished courtroom presence, and genuine interest in people have earned Jerry Colley the reputation of being an outstanding trial lawyer; and he has earned particular acclaim in the practice of criminal law; and

WHEREAS, in his career, Mr. Colley has appeared in every State and federal court, including the Supreme Court. He has tried more than seventy first degree murder cases with alacrity and acumen, winning or gaining a reduced sentence in every case; and

WHEREAS, he also has a very successful record in trying civil suits, and he has always dealt fairly with his fellow lawyers, thereby earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and clients alike; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Colley served on the Board of Professional Responsibility in Tennessee from 1984 to 1990; he is the Dean of the Maury County Bar Association, and has been a Rule 31 Mediator since April 2002; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, Mr. Colley has been a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a singular honor of which he is most proud; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Jerry Colley has proven to be as benevolent as he is skillful; he has represented many clients who were without resources, pro bono, and he has been quick to share his professional expertise with rising young lawyers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colley has lent his superb leadership skills to numerous civic endeavors and is a public-spirited citizen of the highest order; he has remained loyal to the memory of his "Grandmammy" as an active Democrat in the areas of politics and religion; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his legal career, Jerry Colley enjoyed his role as a stellar basketball and football official in Tennessee, and he was selected to officiate several State tournaments; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Colley is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Linda, and his five children, Leslie, John, Drake, Sarah, and Jerry, Jr., who are his pride and joy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Colley epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to seize this golden opportunity to recognize and honor this estimable public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Jerry C. Colley for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and its citizens as an attorney, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.